

weapon murdered 20 children and 6 staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The love that a parent has for our children is different. It is unique in that our love for everyone else has a beginning, but for our children, our love has no end.

When your child is born, it is hard to understand how you are capable of feeling so much love. It is a love so precious and pure that it flows through your soul. As they grow, your love grows with them. Each day, you can't imagine loving them more, and yet every day you are proven wrong.

Oftentimes we can feel vulnerable with this love and all the fear that comes with it. Being a parent is like that. If everything goes right, if we do everything we can for our children, the very worst can still happen.

Principal Dawn Hochsprung and psychologist Mary Sherlach yelled to their colleagues: "Shooter. Stay put" when they investigated the first shots. They were the first killed as they alerted the others.

Janitor Rick Thorne ran through the hallways alerting classrooms of the danger. He used his master key to lock many of the doors for them. The key was so worn from use that it snapped in one of the doors.

The first graders in Lauren Rousseau's classroom were not allowed to grow. Lauren had worked at Sandy Hook for a week. She had tried to hide them in the bathroom. She had fought to keep them safe. Fifteen of her students were killed. Fifteen first graders were murdered in a bathroom by a man with an assault rifle.

One 6-year-old girl played dead among the bodies of her classmates. She was the only one to survive in that room. Covered in blood, the first thing she said was: "Mommy, I'm okay, but all my friends are dead."

The next room the killer entered was that of Victoria Soto, who did her best to conceal her students in a closet. Some were hiding under desks. As the gunman fired at them with his Bushmaster, he stopped to reload. Six-year-old Jesse Lewis shouted at his classmates to run for safety, and several did. Jesse was looking directly at the shooter when he was murdered.

Anne Marie Murphy, a special education teacher, was found shielding 6-year-old Dylan Hockley. The bullets took them both.

Victoria's sister, Jillian, was captured by photographers in what some call the defining photo of that horrific day. She is forever immortalized on the phone, sobbing, receiving that devastating phone call, the call that is a sucker punch to your stomach, the phone call that brings you to your knees when your desperation simply will not let you stand, that leaves you gasping for air when the agony will not let you breathe.

A decade ago, my child was murdered. The very last day I saw my son, Jordan, he was wearing red sneakers.

He had khaki-colored slacks on and a black backpack slung over his shoulder as he walked out the door. He said: "I love you, mom" before he got on the plane to Jacksonville, Florida. Jordan talked about coming home for Thanksgiving, and that day still haunts me.

In Newtown, parents watched their children walk out the front door, and some never saw them again. We are left only with the memories of our loved ones and the lost dreams of what could have been.

Parents may move forward but never fully heal. They never fully recover.

In honor of their legacy, it is imperative we continue to fight for lifesaving policies such as universal background checks, safe storage, ghost gun regulation, an assault weapons ban, and so much more.

In the words of a well-known writer:

"To value life of others
"Is to acknowledge the sanctity of yours
"To feel for the ruin of others
"Is to respect the existence of yours
"To fight for the freedom of others
"Is to preserve the liberty of yours"

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my hometown, the city of Zeeland, on its 175th anniversary.

Throughout the first week of October, friends and residents of this small but vibrant city in west Michigan gathered together to celebrate and share memories of the community's storied history.

The village of Zeeland was established in 1847 when nearly 500 Dutch citizens, led by James Van de Luyster, sailed from Zeeland in the Netherlands to pursue religious freedom and self-rule. I will note that my own family came in the second wave that same year of 1847 and has proudly been ensconced in the city of Zeeland since then.

After settling on 16,000 acres of land, one of the first buildings established was a church. Here, Reverend Cornelius van der Meulen became the first spiritual leader and pastor to the Zeeland colonists, offering hope and courage as the settlers cleared thick forests and tackled this new land.

As the center of the community, the church served as a place of worship on Sundays as well as a school on the weekdays, with instruction provided in both English and in Dutch.

A burgeoning manufacturing and agriculture sector, as well as a post office helped Zeeland to grow, leading to incorporation as a city in 1907. Now, the 1900s were a time of growth in Zeeland. In fact, my own father served over 30 years on the city council from the late 1960s up until the 1990s.

While the city has grown, one thing has remained a constant: The innova-

tive, entrepreneurial, close-knit, and welcoming community continues to make Zeeland a special place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, let us join in recognizing all former and current residents of the city of Zeeland as they celebrate their 175th anniversary.

THE GREAT PRIVILEGE OF SERVING THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with mixed emotions, as this will likely be the final time that I speak in front of this Chamber as a Member of Congress.

For the last 22 years, I have had the great privilege of serving the people of Rhode Island's Second Congressional District. It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent the voice and vote of my constituents, and I am so humbled by the faith and the trust that they have placed in me all these years.

After my accident, it was my community that was there for me when I needed them the most, and it was their constant love and support, along with my family, which ultimately inspired me to run for office as a way of giving back.

My journey to recovery was not always an easy one, but thanks to my family, my faith, and my community, I was able to move forward and become the first quadriplegic ever elected to the United States Congress.

For the last 36 years, I have woken up every day with one goal in mind: giving good public service to the people of Rhode Island. That focus has held true since my early days in public service, beginning when I was elected as a delegate to Rhode Island's Constitutional Convention, continued through my time in the General Assembly and as the Nation's youngest secretary of state, and it has remained strong throughout my final days as a United States Congressman.

I will forever be grateful for the enduring friendships and lifetime memories that I have forged here in this body. But most of all, I am so proud of all that we have been able to accomplish for the people of Rhode Island and the United States.

I have fought to protect and advance the rights of Americans with disabilities, moving our society closer to becoming fully inclusive and accessible for all.

On the Committee on Armed Services, I have led the efforts to strengthen our national security, and cybersecurity, in particular, and I have been proud to support the hardworking men and women of my district who build the world's finest nuclear submarines at Electric Boat.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems, I

have sought to procure the finest, cutting-edge technologies for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, guardians, and marines, so that our women and men in uniform never enter a fair fight.

Moreover, I have spoken up for our Nation's foster youth, who are too often forgotten and left behind, and I have worked across the aisle to invest in job training, apprenticeships, and career and technical education.

Looking back, I will always be proud of my vote for President Obama's Affordable Care Act, which lowered healthcare costs and secured coverage for millions of uninsured Americans.

I will never forget the moment that I became the first Congressman in a wheelchair to preside over the U.S. House of Representatives as Speaker pro tempore as we marked the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I thank NANCY PELOSI, perhaps the greatest House Speaker of the modern era, for making that day possible.

Likewise, I thank Majority Leader STENY HOYER for his decades of friendship and leadership in passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and for his unrelenting efforts to make sure that the Capitol complex is accessible to Americans of all abilities.

I also express my gratitude to my colleagues in the congressional delegation, Jack, Sheldon, and David, for their friendship and support. I could not have asked for better colleagues to work with on behalf of our great State.

Finally, I thank the dozens of dedicated staff members who have served in my office over the years, as well as my friends and my entire family, especially my mom, my late dad, my brothers, and my sister for standing by my side every step of this journey.

Choosing not to seek reelection to Congress was one of most difficult decisions of my life. But after two decades of living in two places at the same time and weekly air travel, I am ready to chart a new course.

Although I will no longer be in Congress come beginning of next year, I am not going away. I am just coming home.

I love my State, and I love the people who live there. So most of all, I want to say thank you, Rhode Island, for the opportunity to serve the community which has given me so much. I will always cherish the time that I was blessed to represent you.

BEEKEEPING AT UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Georgia for the creative ways it is building a more environmentally sustainable campus. Late last year, UGA golf course superintendent Scott Griffith took an interest in, of all things, bees.

Alongside the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Griffith established a beekeeping program on the golf course, recognizing that it would make for an excellent outlet for educating students about the importance of pollinators.

Bees, as we all know, play a vital role in maintaining our ecosystem. These industrious insects pollinate our flowers and crops, helping to maintain the delicate balance of nature that allows for a bountiful supply of food and a greener world to live in.

Unfortunately, bees have faced numerous, sometimes existential challenges in recent years. Pesticides, habitat loss, and deforestation have all contributed to decline in the population of bees, which has had a serious cascading effect throughout the food chain.

By providing a safe and nurturing environment for bees, the university is not only helping to safeguard these creatures, but they are also educating the next generation of leaders about the importance of conservation and sustainability.

I again congratulate Mr. GRIFFITH and all UGA faculty for their out-of-the-box thinking. I look forward to seeing the positive impact this will have on the ecosystem and community in Athens.

□ 1130

CONGRATULATING TIERRA JACKSON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tierra Jackson, a pharmacy student at the University of Georgia, for being named president of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association.

As president, she is responsible for shaping the priorities of the organization. She decided that the organization's theme for this year would be Students Creating, Reimagining, and Innovating Pharmacy Together. She hopes to bring together a broad group of students who are interested about the profession of pharmacy, healthcare issues, and the poor minority representation in these areas.

The Student National Pharmaceutical Association is a leading voice in pharmacy education, has 120 chapters nationwide, and boasts over 5,000 members. This distinction is evidence of the diligence she carries with her every day.

A native of Statesboro, Georgia, she received a bachelor of science in pharmaceutical science degree. While an undergrad, she was the president for the Pre-Pharmacy Society and vice president and service coordinator of the NAACP. She is cofounder and vice president of the Black Student Pharmacist Organization.

Even at such an early stage in her career, she has already displayed leadership beyond her years. I am proud of Tierra Jackson and the impact that she is having on shaping the future of the pharmacy and pharmaceutical industry.

I congratulate her on her appointment, and I wish her a successful ten-

ure as president of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my farewell speech on the floor of the House of Representatives.

It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent Michigan's 14th Congressional District for the past 8 years.

A few months ago, I announced that my family and I made this remarkable, tough decision that this will be my last term serving as a Member of Congress. For 8 years, I have been given an amazing opportunity, an opportunity to serve and walk the Halls of Congress, and I have enjoyed every minute of this journey.

I am deeply grateful to the people of the 14th District in southeast Michigan who gave me their vote and trusted me to represent them in office. I have been representing southeast Michigan for 30 years. I am coming home.

I was trained to be a public servant in local politics, where I was the first woman and the first African American to ever be elected to the position of mayor in the city of Southfield, for which I served for 14 years. I also served as school board president and president of the city council.

In this Chamber where I stand, we debate issues and confront challenges on behalf of the American people. This thing that we call a democracy is defined by the vote of the people and someone stepping up for public service.

I was raised by my grandmother, who migrated from Georgia to Detroit in the height of the American civil rights movement. I remember watching her in tears as America marched, protested, and fought for a nation where we would not be judged by the color of our skin but by the content of our character.

She instilled in me the passion for democracy and the importance of voting. She told me: Brenda, if you work hard and get your education, there is absolutely nothing that you can't do in these great United States of America.

For the past 30 years, I have learned how important it is to be accessible to my constituents, to act as their voices in the rooms that they cannot enter. I went to places of worship, met with union representatives, walked with the people, and made sure that the door was open so that every citizen I represented had an opportunity to have their voices heard.

As a member of Michigan's congressional delegation, I am proud to have legislated on issues that are important to our great State of Michigan—water quality, union rights, justice, transportation and infrastructure, manufacturing and the auto industry, housing, and education. I am most proud of using my voice to fight on behalf of my constituents.